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that they are going on with this campaign. They are continuing it. They are doing it on the advice of the best medical experts available to the Government.''

Fresh taxation to finance the Second Five-Year Plan

* 347 *Q.*—Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state whether the Madras Government have given any assurance to the Government of India in regard to fresh taxation to finance the Second Five-Year Plan and, if so, what is the assurance?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No, Sir."

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" Is the Minister aware of the report published in the Madras papers that the Finance Minister has given an undertaking that, pending general elections, no further taxation will be imposed in this State? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I did not say ' pending election '. My general view is that we have reached a limit of taxation. But, still, if we are compelled to make a little more effort for the purpose of fulfilling the plan, I am sure the people will not hesitate to bear that additional burden.''

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Is it proper on the part of the Hon. Minister to reveal the Budget secret that there will be additional taxation in the next Budget? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I never revealed any secret. I said ' We have been heavily taxed already '. I stated ' If necessary, the people will have to bear a little additional burden for the purpose of fulfilling the Plan '. I did not disclose anything else. But somebody gave some information and it was published.''

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" Will the Hon. Finance Minister, having developed a sympathy for the public of Madras, keep up this sympathy and say that no further taxation will be imposed for another year? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, not only I have developed sympathy now, but I always have sympathy for the people. It is because of the sympathy for the people and to give them all the amenities that we impose taxes. It is not merely for the purpose of harassing the people but it is for giving further amenities to them.''

Kaveripauk anicut

* 348 *Q.*—Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Kaveripauk anicut was originally built: and

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(b) what steps have been instituted to improve the tank and the anicut during the last ten years?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (a) The Palar anicut which the hon. Member presumably means was constructed in 1854.

" (b) In 1950 some improvements were carried out to the anicut such as reopening of nine sand vents, fitting up of falling shutters on the crest near Kaveripakkam channel head sluice, etc. The silt clearance in the leading channel between the Fox, Mulai and the Lion sluices and in the bed of the Kaveripauk tank was done in 1952–53 and normal repairs and maintenance are being carried out whenever necessary."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know, Sir, whether the anicut is fitted with electrically operated shutters and whether there is any proposal to install up-to-date equipment to mark the centenary of this old irrigation system?"

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I am not aware of the electrically operated shutters. I have also no information on hand about centenary which the hon. Member is referring to. But, Sir, the whole system is suffering because of want of water. I think it will be more than satisfying to us if we get water rather than celebrating the centenary without water."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Has any estimate been drawn up to clear up the age-long accumulation of silt at the anicut? Will the silt clearance work be taken up at least now?"

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" That is being done, Sir. Periodically, we are trying to clear the silt and keep the storage intact."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Will the Government please call for an estimate from the Chief Engineer to provide up-to-date equipment to work this irrigation system and also to see that the silt is cleared up to mark the fact that for one hundred years the anicut has been there and the connecting channels are now getting silted up?"

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Sir, the silt clearance work in the leading channel between Fox, Lion and Mulai sluices and in the bed of Kaveripakkam tank was done in 1952–53 at a cost of Rs. 7,000. The Executive Engineer has also been instructed to carry out similar silt clearance between Lion and Fox and Mulai sluices to facilitate free draw off of water through these sluices. As regards the modern equipment. I shall have to consult the Chief Engineer."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I hope that the Hon. Minister for Public Works will make a personal inspection with the Chief Engineer? Because, the hon. Member from North Arcot,

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Sri Perumalswami Reddi, will bear witness to the fact that this tank and channel are getting silted up and require urgent attention."

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I shall be glad to do so, Sir."

Improvement to the Buckingham canal

* 349 *Q*.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps have been taken by Government to deepen and improve the Buckingham Canal ; and

(*b*) whether the Government propose to introduce steam launch service in the Buckingham Canal from Madras to places of interest like Tiruporur, Mahabalipuram, etc. ?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) Several schemes for deepening and widening the canal were considered in the past but were dropped as being too costly. A scheme for carrying out improvements to the North Buckingham Canal at an approximate cost of Rs. 20 lakhs has been recommended by this Government now for inclusion in the Second Five-Year Plan.

"(*b*) No, Sir."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Have the Government considered the possibility of developing the canal for the transport of passengers and also for the transport of goods and to work this up as a more efficient inland waterway in this region? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Yes, Sir. That is only found to be very expensive. Various schemes such as widening the canal to 40' bed width and deepening it to the level of 14–00 for the portion 0/0 to 196–2 of North Buckingham Canal costing about Rs. 93 lakhs and two other schemes costing about Rs. 38 lakhs and 27 lakhs respectively, were considered before. These proposals were dropped due to lack of finance and due to their initial unremunerative nature. It was thought that as in the parallel roads running along this canal fast moving vehicles are available, people will not take to waterways—either passengers or even goods—and it was considered that it would be a dead loss."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" In view of the costly scheme referred to by the Hon. Minister, may I know if the Government have got any scheme under consideration to revitalise the indigenous boat industry by investigating into the present condition of boatmen who have been in this trade all along and instituting needy measures of relief to the boatmen? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I shall have the suggestion considered."